

Supplemental Preliminary Amendment 1/15/02

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, below the title:

Background

Please insert the following subtitle at page 1 line 30

Summary

Please insert the following subtitle at page 2 line 31:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Please insert the following subtitle at page 3 line 9:

Detailed Description

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 10, with the following:

The embodiment shown in figure Figure 1 shows a radial adsorber with, in a cylindrical vessel 1 with a vertical axis comprising an upper dome 2 and a bottom end 3, at least one annular adsorbent mass 4, coaxial with the axis of the vessel 1, by a lower chamber 5 formed by a perforated central tube 6 coaxial with the axis of the vessel 1, from a peripheral chamber 7 communicating with the lower volume of the vessel 1 from which, in the production phase, issues an outlet line 8 for the production gas mixture separated from a feed gas mixture introduced via the lower end of the central tube 6. In the regeneration phase, the adsorbent mass 4 is flushed by a gas mixture escaping with reduced pressure, via the same lower end of the central tube 6. The adsorbent is maintained externally and separated from the peripheral chamber 7 by at least one perforated shell 15 coaxial with the axis of the vessel 1.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 29, with the following:

In a manner known per se, an impermeable flexible wall or membrane 9 extends horizontally in the vessel 1 to cover the upper ends of the annular chamber 7, of the annular adsorbent mass 4, and of the central tube 5.

Supplemental Preliminary Amendment n 80027

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 22, with the following:

In the embodiment in figure Figure 2, the volume above the membrane 9 communicates permanently, via at least one calibrated passage 13, with the internal chamber 5 and thereby "follows" the pressure in this internal chamber 5.

Please insert the following paragraph at page 5, line 7:

It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.

Please replace the subtitle at page 6, line 1, with the following text:

CLAIMS What is claimed is: